

NSC BRIEFING

29 AUGUST 1956

~~SECRET~~

SOUTHEAST ASIA: #4--BURMA

1 Burma, one of the original neutralist nations, is rapidly becoming disenchanted over the thorny course of "friendly" relations with the Bloc.

A A year ago the Burmese were genuinely grateful to the Bloc for purchasing surplus rice and promising aid with "no strings."

B They also took Communist talk of adherence to the "five principles" of coexistence at face value

1 Since then, however, the Burmese have discovered a great divergence between Communist promises and performance

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- A The Soviet and Chinese Communist embassies in Rangoon gave aid to the pro-Communist opponents of the Government in last spring's elections.
- B The Communists have been slow in delivering "the goods"
- C Communist China has sold bartered Burmese rice for cash in Burma's traditional markets.
- D On top of everything else, Chinese Communist troops are now encroaching on Burmese territory, and brusquely refusing to depart.
- E Today, Burmese patience with the Bloc, and Peiping in particular is badly strained, and Premier Ba Swe is letting such other neutrals as India, Indonesia, and even Yugoslavia know about it

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